Days Creek Road Renovation, Stream Bank Stabilization, and Stream Crossing Culvert Replacement Decision Record

South River Watershed Restoration Environmental Assessment South River Field Office EA # OR-105-00-05

Date Prepared: February 12, 2001

Decision: It is my decision to authorize the following restoration activities analyzed in the South River Watershed Restoration EA: renovation of approximately 9.34 miles of the Days Creek Road (Road No. 29-3-33.0) that will include armoring of two stream crossings to allow passage of a theoretical 100-year flood event without washing out of the road; stabilization of approximately 200 feet of an undercut and eroding stream bank along Days Creek in the SW¼ NE¼ of Section 27, T. 29 S., R. 3 W., W.M.; and the replacement of a large stream crossing culvert located on Road No. 29-3-33.0 in the SE¼ NW¼ of Section 13, T. 29 S., R. 3 W., W.M.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) found in Appendix D, p. 134, of the *Roseburg District Record of Decision/Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP, June, 1995) and other project design features that will apply to all of the projects include:

- Washing of all equipment prior to movement onto and off of the contract area.
- Seasonal restriction of road work to the period of May 15 to October 15, both days inclusive.
- Restriction on all in-stream work to the period of July 1 to September 15, both days inclusive.
- Endhaul of waste material to an authorized disposal site.
- Placement of a petroleum absorbent boom and sediment trap downstream of any in-stream work sites.
- Mulching and seeding of disturbed/exposed areas, excepting active streams. Native grass seed to be provided by the Government.

Road renovation will consist of brushing, subgrade and bank stabilization, buttressing with rip-rap, removal and replacement of cross drain culverts, installation of additional cross drain culverts, installation of splash pads below cross drain culverts, ditch line restoration, surface blading, and resurfacing with crushed aggregate.

Stream bank stabilization will be accomplished by diverting the stream channel from its present course into its historic flood plain by placement of logs in-stream to reduce stream velocity and encourage channel meander, placement of rip-rap and root wads at the toe of the eroding slope, and by excavating the slope to a stable angle of repose and revegetating the excavated slope to prevent erosion. Additional mitigation will include:

- Mulching, installation of erosion-control fabric over the mulch, and planting with willow cuttings on the lower bench of the excavated slope.
- Planting of the upper two benches of the slope with alder and maple trees.

The replacement culvert will be a 142"x91" arched pipe with a concrete headwall. Culvert design and installation will incorporate BMPs and project design features that include:

- Design of the culvert to pass a theoretical 100-year flood event
- Culvert will provide passage to resident and anadromous fish populations both upstream and downstream, and will provide for the accumulation of natural streambed substrates and reduced flow velocities
- A grade structure will be installed below the culvert site to reduce channel downcutting and provide a step pool for upstream fish migration
- Stream flow will be diverted around the work site during construction activities

Rationale for the Decision:

Road renovation, bank stabilization and culvert replacement would not result in any undue environmental degradation. These projects are consistent with objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy contained in the ROD/RMP (pp. 20-21) specifically: the maintenance and restoration of the sediment regime; maintenance and restoration of in-stream flows; maintenance and restoration of spatial and temporal connectivity in the watershed; and maintenance and restoration of habitat. The actions would also meet objectives contained in Appendix D, Best Management Practices (ROD/RMP, pp. 129-143):

The implementation of these projects analyzed under Alternative 1 of the EA, the proposed action, would meet the desired objectives for reducing sediment in Days Creek, restoration of fish passage to presently inaccessible habitat, and replacement of a culvert with a near-term risk of failure. Alternative 2, the no action alternative would not meet the identified needs.

Existing roads and culverts are facilities not requiring pre-disturbance clearance prior to routine maintenance, renovation, or replacement. Surveys for red tree voles in the vicinity of the eroding stream bank on the south side of Days Creek were negative. Equipment access on the north side of the creek will not involve removal of any timber which would require pre-disturbance clearance. Surveys for Special Status and Special Attention plant species were conducted, but none were identified in the area of the stream bank stabilization.

The BLM consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service on the proposed action. In a Biological Opinion, dated July 19, 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Service concurred with the BLM assessment that these projects constituted a "may affect, likely to adversely affect" determination because there was more than a "negligible potential for the harassment of individual fish, and to a lesser extent, because a few *degrades* checkmarks occurred at the project scale." The National Marine Fisheries Service also concluded that individual actions are not likely to harm individual fish, would not cause adverse modification or destruction of habitat, and when the cumulative effects are added to the existing environmental baseline, are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of these species.

No issues were identified by other State or Federal agencies, or by any tribal governments. The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact were made available for public review from June 28, 2000, through July 28, 2000. Comments were received from one organization. None of the comments constituted new information or issues not already considered in the EA, ROD/RMP, or PRMP/EIS.

Compliance and Monitoring:
Monitoring will be done in accordance with implementation monitoring objectives and requirements for Riparian Reserves, Water and Soils, Wildlife Habitat, Fish Habitat, and Special Status and SEIS Special Attention Species Habitat resources contained in the ROD/RMP, Appendix I (190-191, and 195-199).

Protest and Appeals Procedures: As outlined in 43 CFR § 5003 Administrative Remedies, protests may be filed with the authorized officer within 15 days of the publication date of the Decision Notice in the News Review.

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E. Dwight Fielder
Field Manager
South River Field Office

Date